

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This amendment is filed with a one-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(1).

Paragraph [0031] has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application and each of the claims presently stand rejected. Independent claims 1 and 8 and dependent claims 2 and 9 have been amended. No new matter is introduced.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present claims in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

#### **1. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b).**

Claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. 3,142,211 (Faso). The Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) are hereinafter traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

In Faso, the socket (9) holds the fastener (10) by impinging the flats of the fastener (10) with the two straight portions (14) of the resilient member (spring clip). Please note Faso, Column 2, Lines 20-29.

In applicant's present invention, the socket (50) holds the fastener (F) by biasing the fastener against the facets (59) opposite notch (57) with the force of the split ring (63). Please note Applicant's paragraph [0032] and FIGS. 5a and 5b.

Applicant claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14 presently distinguish over FASO by claiming a retainer (63) that, "...provides a bias force to said fastener to retain said fastener against said holder". Also, applicant claims a, "... second notch not being in communication with said receiving area".

Applicant claims 15-20 presently distinguish over FASO by claiming a retainer (63) that is "...secured to a holder..." as opposed to just extending about the socket (50)

in an unsecured manner. Please see Applicant's paragraph [0034], where the term 'secured' is defined.

**2. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).**

Claims 6 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faso in view of U.S.1,558,267 to McGuckin, U.S.2,805,594 to Fogal, or U.S.3,668,952 to Teutsch. The Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(3) are hereinafter traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claims 6 and 13 depend from amended independent claims 1 and 8 respectively. For the reasons presented above, applicant claims 1 and 8 presently distinguish over FASO, so the resulting combination or modification of McGuckin, Fogal or Teutsch does not appear to show or suggest the Applicant's claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections against claims 1-20 and allowance thereof. The Examiner is cordially invited to telephone Applicant's representative if it appears a telephone discussion would help resolve any outstanding matters or place the application in even better condition for allowance. Please charge any required fees to the Deposit Account of record.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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